

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 12, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-26 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action states that an acknowledgment is made of Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d), but that the Applicants have not filed a certified copy of the foreign application. Applicants submit, however, that the present application is a continuation of a PCT application (PCT/FI01/00391) from which the application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 and §365(c). Thus, no certified copy of a foreign application is required to perfect priority.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lucidarme (U.S. Patent No. 7,123,910). While the Office Action initially lists claims 1-26 as being rejected under §102(e) (see page 3, paragraph 4), it is clear from the remaining portions of the Office Action that the rejection was intended to be made under §103(a). In any case, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Applicants submit that the rejection of the claims is based on an improper prior art reference. More specifically, the cited reference of Lucidarme has an effective filing date which is later than the effective filing date of the present application and, therefore, Lucidarme cannot be cited as prior art against the present application. Lucidarme has an

effective filing date of May 10, 2002, which is the filing date of the corresponding PCT application. The present application, however, is a continuation of PCT/FI01/00391 filed on April 23, 2001. Accordingly, the present application has an effective filing date of April 23, 2001, which is prior to the May 10, 2002 filing date of Lucidarme. Therefore, Lucidarme cannot properly be cited as prior art with respect to the present application. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-26 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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